What is claimed:

1. An electronic device, comprising:

a floppy-disk shaped housing, the housing having a slot disposed therein,

the slot operable to receive a card having a magnetic stripe that stores information;

a read head disposed within a portion of the slot and operable to read the information stored on the card;

a transducer disposed within the housing; and

a processing circuit disposed within the housing and coupled to the read head and the transducer.

2. The electronic device of claim 1 further comprising a unique identification circuit coupled to the processing circuit.

3. The electronic device of claim 1 further comprising a smart chip embedded in the device and coupled to the processing circuit.

4. An electronic device for facilitating secure information exchanges over a network, the device comprising:

a floppy-disk shaped housing;

an encoded information read head adapted to the housing;

a smart chip port adapted to the housing;

a transducer head adapted to the housing;

a processing circuit disposed within the housing and coupled to the read head, the smart chip port and the transducer, the circuit operable to

receive information from the read head,

communicate with the smart chip port, and

communicate with the transducer.

5. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the encoded information read head is a magnetic stripe read head.

6. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the read head is a coil type magnetic read head.

7. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the floppy-disk shaped housing is compatible with a standard 3.5 inch floppy disk drive.

8. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the transducer is operable to communicate with a conventional floppy-disk drive read/write head.

9. The electronic device of claim 4 further comprising a display adapted to the housing and coupled to the processing circuit.

10. The electronic device of claim 4 further comprising a keypad adapted to the housing and coupled to the processing circuit.

11. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the housing has a slot disposed therein for receiving a portion of a card bearing encoded information and the read head is disposed within a portion of the slot.

12. The electronic device of claim 4 further comprising a smart chip installed in the smart chip port.

13. An electronic device for facilitating secure information exchanges over a network, the device comprising:

a floppy-disk shaped housing, the housing having a slot disposed therein for swiping a magnetic stripe card there through;

a magnetic stripe read head disposed within a portion of the slot;

a smart chip port adapted to the housing;

a transducer adapted to the housing

a processing circuit disposed within the housing and coupled to the read head, the smart chip port and the communications head, the circuit operable to

receive information from the read head,

communicate with the smart chip port, and

communicate with the transducer.

14. An electronic device for facilitating secure information exchanges over a network, comprising:

a floppy-disk shaped housing, the housing forming a slot and the slot operable to receive a card having a magnetic stripe that stores encoded information;

a read head disposed within the slot and operable to read encoded information stored on the magnetic stripe;

a transducer disposed within the housing;

a keypad adapted to the exterior of the housing;

a smart chip port disposed within the housing and operable to receive a smart chip that stores information;

a display adapted to the exterior of the housing; and

a processing circuit disposed within the housing and coupled to the read head, the keypad, the smart chip port, the display and the transducer, the circuit operable to

receive encoded information from the read head,

communicate with the smart chip port,

receive information from the keypad,

communicate with the transducer, and

transmit information to the display for presentation.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the smart chip port is adapted to receive a smart card.

16. The device of claim 14 wherein the device further comprises a smart chip disposed within the smart chip port.

17. A method for facilitating secure information exchanges over a network performed in an electronic device with a smart chip and a magnetic stripe read head in a floppy-disk shaped housing, comprising:

a. reading with the read head encoded information from a magnetic stripe card;

b. reading information stored within the smart chip;

c. processing the magnetic stripe information and the smart chip information in a processing circuit; and

d. providing processed magnetic stripe information and smart chip information to a transducer disposed within the floppy disk shaped housing.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

e. receiving user information entered via a keypad adapted to the floppy disk housing.

19. A method of use of a device for facilitating secure information exchanges over a network performed in an electronic device with a smart chip and a magnetic stripe read head in a floppy-disk shaped housing, comprising:

a. swiping a card through a slot disposed within the floppy-disk shaped housing of the device;

b. entering user information into a keypad adapted to the device when prompted by a message presented in a display on the device;

c. inserting the device a floppy-disk drive.